

Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee
4141 N. Third Street - Phoenix AZ 85012
July 9, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.
Arizona State Veteran Home, Room A107

M I N U T E S

Committee Members Present

John Aldecoa
Joe Bibich (phone)
Carol Culbertson
George Cushing
Randy Meyer
Kathy Pearce
Jody Reidenhour (phone)
Danny Thompson, Designee

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Gabe Forsberg, Plans & Development Manager
Diane D'Angelo, Outreach Coordinator
Donna Adams, Development Specialist

Other Attendees

Jeff Dollins, Assistant Attorney General

Absent

Marcos Andrade
Margy Bons
Jay Gordon
Charles McCarty

Call to Order

Quorum was established and Committee Chair Joe Bibich called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Committee Chair Bibich, attending by phone, asked Vice Chair Meyer to administer the meeting. Vice Chair Meyer asked Donna Adams to introduce herself to the Committee. Ms. Adams stated that she is the ADVS Development Specialist and will be heavily involved in writing rules for MFRF.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 17, 2008 and July 2, 2008 meetings were approved. Vice Chair Meyer asked that a MFRF Policy Review be added to the next agenda in light of SB 1169 non-passage.

Donation Fund and Promotional Campaign Update

Diane D'Angelo reported that there is approximately \$65,000 in the Fund. Vice Chair Meyer asked what the balance was after including the stipends given to the three applicants. Ms. D'Angelo replied she did not have the information on-hand, but would send a report to Committee Members.

Ms. D'Angelo reported that Tucson- and Globe-area tax preparers have been sending MFRF brochures to their clients. These contacts came as a result of speaking before the National Association of Tax Preparers last month. In addition, Ms. D'Angelo gave a MFRF presentation to the Association of the United States Army Board on July 7. The Board has offered to assist MFRF grantees with peer support.

KYMA-TV (Yuma) interviewed Committee Member Kathy Pearce and Ms. D'Angelo on July 1. Committee Member Pearce stated that the report is scheduled to air this week.

On July 17, Committee Member Pearce and Ms. D'Angelo will be interviewed at KSLX-FM. The interview will also run on five sister stations. If additional Committee Members would like to be involved as well, please contact Ms. D'Angelo.

The Famous Dave's BBQ MFRF Benefit is scheduled for July 19 at stores in Chandler, Mesa and Peoria. Col. Dawn Lake will be broadcasting live from the Mesa store. Thanks to Committee Members Culbertson and Aldecoa for arranging musical entertainment and giveaways. More assistance is needed to make the event successful.

Sonoran Bank and the Phoenix Mercury will hold a Military Family Appreciation Night on August 28, 2008. MFRF is the designated charity for this game. We will have a table at the venue, PSA and half-time presentation. Sonoran Bank bought all the tickets needed for this event to benefit MFRF.

Fundraising

Vice Chair Meyer stated that corporate sponsors with military ties should be approached for contribute. Ms. D'Angelo added that corporations are often eager to receive the relatively low-cost good pr that comes from donating to charities. Secretary Cushing agreed to record the outreach efforts made by Committee members as well as results.

Committee Member Aldecoa asked for a MFRF news article for publication in the American Legion newsletter. Committee Member Culbertson asked for MFRF press releases. Ms. D'Angelo will distribute these to MFRFAC members via email.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Meyer adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.